

May 5, 2006

For Immediate Release

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Hayden Flour Mill Archaeology to Begin

Crews will begin archaeological research of the Hayden Flour Mill property this month to prepare a Historic Preservation Plan for the City of Tempe.

An informational opportunity for the media to learn more about the research will take place on site at the Hayden Flour Mill from 5-9 a.m., Mill Avenue and Rio Salado Parkway, on Thursday, May 11.

Archeological Consulting Services, a Tempe-based company, will begin the process of exploring the Hayden Flour Mill's past. The team is collecting historic photographs and artifacts, and testing ground around the site for links to the Hohokam past of the Hayden Butte area, as well as to those who worked at the Mill itself.

This archaeological testing program will yield critical information for a detailed treatment plan of the area. The treatment plan could recommend further research to clear areas for future development, as well as suggestions for the adaptive reuse of the historic structures.

The Hayden Flour Mill Archaeological Project is funded by a grant from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community with additional support from the City of Tempe, Tempe Historical Museum, and the Tempe Historic Preservation Office.

A comprehensive website – www.tempe.gov/haydenflourmill -- has been created so the public may see historic photos, learn about Hayden Butte and the Hayden Flour Mill, and when possible, get updates on the work being done. They may also contribute personal stories about their experiences with the Flour Mill. Since the mill has been closed for less than a decade, there are many people alive who have valuable information about how the mill worked and its day to day operations.

The City of Tempe is sponsoring a photo contest to urge people to contribute both historic and new photographs of this community icon. Details are available on the website at www.tempe.gov/haydenflourmill.

During one phase of this project, bulldozers and backhoes may be brought in. They are to remove cement covering parts of the earth, and will not tear down any portion of the flour mill or silo.

About the research:

The Hayden Archaeological Research Project builds on previous studies sponsored by the City of Tempe, such as excavations prior to construction of the Rio Salado Parkway and a comprehensive study of Tempe Butte's cultural resources. New research will help to shed light on the contributions of local groups to community history. Pima and Maricopa Indians, Mexican-Americans, Euro-Americans and other settlers are all known to have lived in the vicinity of Tempe Butte in the 19th and 20th centuries. In some cases, little is yet known about these early communities.

The project includes several important, related components, which will be completed over the next year:

- 1) An intensive archival project
- 2) Archaeological testing for both prehistoric and historic features
- 3) Historic architectural investigations of the Mill and silos and
- 4) Preparation of a historic preservation plan for the project area.

The first stage of the archival component includes preliminary library research to provide important background data needed for the archaeological testing plan and the initiation of fieldwork. The second stage will occur while the archaeological and historic architecture investigations are underway. The results of this more in-depth archival research will further support analysis and interpretation of the fieldwork.

Up to 22 backhoe trenches will be placed in key locations within the project area during the archaeological testing component. Trenching is a very common strategy that archaeologists use to identify the nature and extent of prehistoric and historic cultural remains.

The data collected during testing will identify and assess the significance of the cultural resources in the project area through time. Archaeological field work will begin in late June and will continue through the end of July. Before the fieldwork can begin, concrete pads from the old Hayden warehouse foundations to the north and west of the Mill Building will be removed using large backhoes. Removing those concrete pads will expose portions of the original Tempe townsite, where test excavations will be focused during this project. The concrete removal will begin in mid- to late-May 2006.

The historic architectural investigations will provide important information about the Hayden Flour Mill buildings and assist with decision-making regarding their adaptive reuse and interpretation for the public.

The comprehensive historic preservation plan will be a unique document that clearly responds to the preservation goals of the City of Tempe and reflects its values. It will be forward looking, create an agenda for future preservation activities and provide a means for measuring progress in protecting the significant historic resources in the project area. The historic preservation plan will build upon the results of the three research components described above as well as previous efforts by the City.